



Gp/3722

PATENT APPLICATION

#5

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Horst HILD

Appln. No.: 10/088,820 /

Group Art Unit: 3722

Filed: March 22, 2002

Examiner:

For: A PUNCHING AND BINDING MACHINE

Attorney Docket No.: 3827.095

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the following documents for the above-identified application which were cited by the Examiner in a Search Report in the corresponding German application (DE 199 47 257.2). Copies of the documents set forth below and listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, and copies of the search reports, are provided herewith.

1. U.S. Patent No. 4,607,993
2. European Patent Application No. EP 09 27 647 A1
3. European Patent Application No. EP 08 64 441 A1
4. European Patent Application No. EP 07 27 327 A2

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Document 1 is in the English language and was cited as a "Y" type reference.

The relevance of the non-English references is explained below.

Document 2

Document 2 - European Patent No. 09 27 647 A1 - was cited as a "Y" type reference and teaches a binding apparatus for stack of sheets. The binding comb has a number of tines which in the binding position engage in the holes of the sheet stack. The stamp unit (7) is composed of a movable stamp plate with a number of stamp plungers and a counter pressure plate rigidly connected with the housing of the binding apparatus (1). The counter pressure plate has apertures in which in the stamp position the stamp plungers engage. The binding unit (6) comprises two parallel clamp plates. The first clamp plate is rigidly connected to the lower housing part of the binding apparatus (1) and the second clamp plate is rigidly connected to the stamp plungers. An operating component (2) operates the stamp and binding units.

Document 2 is in the patent family with US Patent 6,074,1551 entitled "Binding apparatus for paper files", a copy of which is provided herewith.

Document 3

Document 3 teaches a binder for paper sheets. The binder comprises a portable equipment with a fold up operating arm (2)

and with a fold up cover (3). The cover forms the upright support for the paper stack which is aligned in a slot (16). The operating arm drives a set of punches to punch filing slots along the edge of the paper stack. The punched stack is aligned over locating fingers (24) to guide the slots onto the opened spine binding. The binding is made of plastics or metal, with the fingers of the metal binding bent over to secure the paper stack. The binding is opened and closed by a second operating arm (22), the punch operating arm forms the carrying handle for the equipment When in the folded state.

Applicants are not aware of any English language documents corresponding to Document 3.

Document 4

Document 4 teaches a punch and binding machine including a punching mechanism and a binding mechanism for punching and binding a stack of sheets by spreading the curled fingers of an elastic binder. The binding mechanism has a longitudinal extension in parallel to the edge of the sheets and a binding handle. The punching handle for operating the punching system has the binding handle mounted to it so the binding handle can be rotated with respect to the punching handle. The binding mechanism may be a separate unit unattached to the punching mechanism.

Document 4 corresponds to US Patent 6,210,092, a copy of which is provided herewith.

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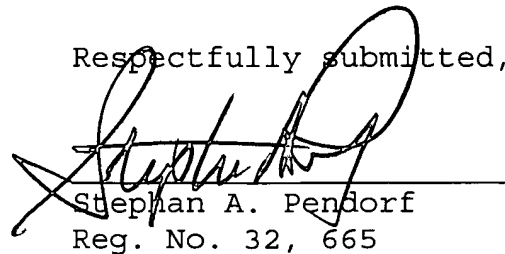
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The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after three months from the application's filing date but before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, therefore no Certification Under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedated or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Applicant respectfully requests that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: **August 27, 2002**

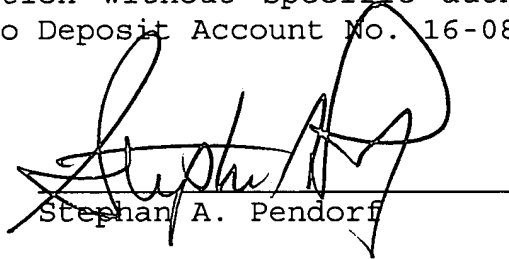
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING AND AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE

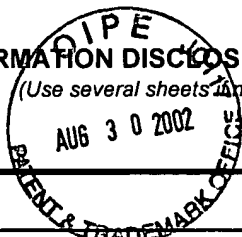
I hereby certify that the foregoing INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT Form PTO-1449, including four documents, for U.S. Application No. 10/088,820 filed March 22, 2002, were deposited in first class U.S. mail, postage prepaid, Washington, D.C. 20231, on **August 27, 2002**.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0877.


Stephan A. Pendorf

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)



ATTY DOCKET NO.

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Horst Hild

FILING

03/22/02

GROUP

3722

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	4,607,993	08/26/86	Scharer	B42B	5/10	
	6,210,092	04/03/01	von Rohrscheidt	B42B	9/00	
	6,074,151	06/13/00	Pas	B42B	5/08	

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	EP 0 927 647 A1	12/09/98	Europe	B42B	5/10		✓
	EP 0 864 441 A1	03/13/97	Europe	B42B	5/10		✓
	EP 0 727 327 A2	02/14/96	Europe	B42B	4/00		✓

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.